

22.
Sir Thomas Hay, of Alderston, Bart. and his Ma- } Appellants;
jesty's Advocate for Scotland, - } Respondent.

Mr. Thomas Hay, of Mordington, Respondent.

The Respondent's C A S E.

4th Dec. 1705. **S**IR John Hay, of Alderston, the Appellant's Father, and Brother of the Respondent, by Deed of this Date, did nominate and appoint Dame Catherine his Wife, Mr. Alexander Hay, and the Respondent, his Two Brothers, to be Tutors and Curators, (or Guardians) to his Children, "with a Power to them to appoint Factors, (with Salaries, and to do every thing else that belonged to the Office." And it was declared by the Deed, "That the Tutors and Curators should not be liable for any Omissions that might be alleged or pretended against them by his Children, or any of them, during their Office; and that they should not be obliged to do any further Diligence, than they themselves should think fit and expedient." And Sir John Hay recommends to them, to advise on all proper Occasions with his Lady's Father Sir George Somerville.

6th Sept. 1706. Sir John Hay died, leaving the Appellant his eldest Son, about Eight Years of Age, and Five other Children. The Tutors entered upon the Administration, and made up and recorded the tutorial Inventories, as the Law of Scotland directs; but in order to save the Expence of Salaries to Receivers or Factors, the Appellant's Mother undertook the Management of the Estate, and Receipt of the Rents; in which she was assisted by Mr. Alexander Hay and the Respondent, who from time to time settled Accounts with her; and during Sir John's Minority, the annual Income of all the Appellant's Estate did not much exceed Sixty Pounds Sterling; after Payment of the Appellant's Mother's Jointure, the Maintenance of the Children, and Interest of Debts due by Sir John at his Death, so that the Respondent was obliged to advance several Sums to the Appellant, from 1712. to 1718. for supporting the necessary Charge of his Education, which for the last Five Years of his Minority amounted to a great deal more than the free Rent of his Estate.

1712. In the Year 1712, the Appellant desiring to go into the Army, his Curators purchased a Company of Dragoons for him, and gave their Bond for 600 l. the Price thereof; which Bond, Principal and Interest, was afterwards paid and discharged by the Respondent, in the Year 1723. Besides the Price of the Company, the Respondent further advanced a large Sum for supplying the Appellant with Horses, Equipage, and other Necessaries.

1719. The Appellant, having attained his Age of Twenty-one Years, in September 1719. and being well satisfied with the Care and Management of his Tutors, came to a final Settlement with them, and gave them a full and ample Discharge of this Date, reciting, "That they had made just Compt, Reckoning, and Payment, for their Intromissions, wherewith he was satisfied and content: That they had delivered up his Writs and Evidents, and whatever else belonged to him, which was in their Custody or Possession; and therefore he then, after attaining his Age of Twenty-one Years complete, exonerated, quit-claimed, and discharged, his Tutors and Curators of their Intromissions, and of all Omissions whatsoever, that might be laid to their Charge, relating to the said Office of Tutor and Curator, and of the said Bonds, Obligations, Assignations, Transmissions, Charters, and Infeftments, and other Writs, Rights, and Securities, of his said Estate, and of all Action competent to him against them, or any of them, which might any-wise arise upon the said Tutor or Curator; and also ratified and approved all Discharges and Conveyances made and granted by his said Tutors, during their Administration, to any Person whatsoever, dispensing with the Generality of the Discharge, and admitting the same to be as valid as if every Particular was specially expressed."—This Discharge was registered in the Books of Council and Session, the Day after it was dated.

June 1720. The Appellant went to France soon after obtaining his Commission, and the Respondent gave him Credit Abroad, and paid the Appellant's Bills, to the Amount of 550 l. which Bills have been also produced; and the Appellant was so sensible of the Respondent's Affection and Indulgence to him, that in a Letter from France, dated 28th Decem. 1720. he writes the Respondent, amongst other things, thus,—"I believe I shall be a Beggar; I do not know how I shall look you in the Face, after what Money I have spent."

1721. The Appellant returned in the Spring 1721. indebted to the Respondent in a large Sum, besides the considerable Advances before-mentioned; for none of which the Respondent had received any Reimbursement. The Sum of 1585 l. Sterling had been indeed received out of the late Earl of Winton's forfeited Estate, about the End of the Year 1720. (being a Debt due thereout to Sir John Hay the Appellant's Father); but that Sum was paid to the Appellant's Mother, by virtue of a Faculty (or Letter of Attorney) from the Appellant.

1722. The Appellant went a Second time into France, and prevailed on the Respondent to assist him again with his Credit. He continued in France from the latter End of the Year 1722. till the Spring 1724. and in that time drew Bills on the Respondent to the Amount of 800 l. Sterling: But these were not the only Sums advanced by the Respondent: There were several other Sums paid, for which he either had no Vouchers, or, if he had, at this Distance of time, above Twenty Years, it is impossible for the Respondent to find them.

Feb. 1723. The Respondent purchased for the Appellant an old Apprising on the Estate of Alderston, which was in the Name of Gray, for the Consideration of 1000 l. Scots (or 83 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling).

1724. The Appellant married soon after his Return to Scotland; and in the Spring 1724. as well upon Account of his Marriage, as of the Funeral of his Lady (who died the Year after Marriage), applied again to his Uncle the Respondent for further Credit, and obtained it, as appears by several Vouchers produced.

1725. The Appellant took a Third Journey to France, where he stayed Four or Five Months; during which time he was again supported by the Respondent, upon whom he drew Bills to the Value of 300 l. Sterling, which are produced; and many other Sums were paid on his Account, the Vouchers whereof are not now in the Respondent's Power.

The Respondent, having, by these large Advances to the Appellant, reduced himself, thought it necessary to come to some Settlement with him; but being unwilling to seem to have upon the Appellant, for whom he had ever shewn great Affection, he took the Measure of his Demand from what his own Circumstances required, and not from what he had really paid, and had an undoubted Right to recover from the Appellant; and therefore, after informing the Appellant of the State of the Account between them, he declared his Willingness to accept of the Appellant's Bond for 1800 l. Sterling, in full of all that was due to him, though the Balance he advanced that Sum; which the Appellant, sensible of the Respondent's Kindness and Generosity, readily agreed to.

The Respondent, from an affectionate Regard for the Appellant, would not, in case of his own Death, even leave it in the Power of his Heirs, or Executors, to distress him for this Money; and therefore ordered the Bond to be made payable to himself and his Assigns only; which, when drawn, was by Capt. Wilkinson (a common Friend to both Appellant and Respondent) carried from Edinburgh to the Appellant's House at Alderston, and there executed by him in the Presence of Capt. Wilkinson, and the Appellant's own Brother George Hay (now Colonel Mordaunt), upon the 31st Day of December 1726. And thereby the Appellant grants himself to be justly indebted, resting, and owing to Mr. Hay the Respondent, the Sum of 1800 l. Sterling; which with the annual Rents (or Interest) from the Date to the Term of Payment therein mentioned, he binds and obliges himself, his Heirs, Executors, and Successors, to pay to the Respondent, or his Assignees (excluding his Heirs and Executors); and that betwixt and the Term of Martinmas there-

“ Hereafter, with 300 l. Money forepaid, of Penalty in the said Bond, the Respondent should not call for the said Sum in his own Life-time, or what Part thereof he should think fit to demand, but the same should be payable to the Respondent’s Heirs or Executors, but the same should belong to the Appellant.”

1738. The Appellant for Twelve Years, having neither paid the said Sum, nor any Part of the Principal, the Respondent, about the End of the Year 1738, acquainted him with the said Bond, and that he had not done him Justice, with respect to his Bond, yet that he was to lay his Account, with being called upon for Payment thereof, either to the Respondent himself, or to such Persons as he should assign it to. And the Respondent, in the Year 1741, let him know that he should deliver the Appellant, till 1741, when he applied for Payment, at least some Part of the said Sum. The Appellant hereupon made one Payment of 1000 l. Scots (or 83 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling), and took the Respondent’s Receipt for it, in Part of what was due: And afterwards, in the Year 1745, made Two more Payments; the first of 500 l. and the other of 100 l. Sterling, which is all that has ever been paid. And the Appellant, in many Letters to the Respondent, from the Year 1741, (produced in this Cause) not only acknowledges the Debt, but expresses great Desire of paying it, with many Acknowledgements to the Respondent, for his long Forbearance.

March 1748. The Respondent, in the Month of March 1748, finding no Effect from these repeated Promises and Acknowledgements of Payment, applied to the Appellant, desiring, that he would, at least, do him the Justice of giving a Bond of Probation, as a Security for the Principal and Interest, which then amounted to about 1700 l. Sterling; and at the same time acquainted the Appellant, that he did not intend to distress him, but should be satisfied to take, from time to time, what the Appellant could conveniently afford; and notified to him, that he must lay his Account, with paying the full Money due on the Bond, after the Respondent’s Death. The Appellant not only refused to comply with this reasonable Request, but immediately before the Bond was put in Suit, or any Process taken out upon it, applied to the Lords of Session for a Suspension of the Debt, which he obtained upon special Bail; and at the same time, the Appellant also brought an Action of Compt, Reckoning, and Payment, against the Respondent, and the Representatives of his other Tutors and Curators, claiming, amongst other large Sums, libelled at random, the Sum of 5000 l. Sterling, and Interest, for Intromissions had by the Respondent, and others, with the Appellant’s Estate, unaccounted for. But this Process of Compt and Reckoning was presently dismissed, on Production of Writings under the Appellant’s own Hand, directly contradicting the Assertions of his Libel.

The Appellant, being disappointed in his Action of Compt and Reckoning, insisted in the Suspension; and at the same time brought an Action of Reduction for setting aside the Bond. These Causes of Suspension and Reduction coming in Course before the Lord Easdale Ordinary, his Lordship ordered, that both Actions should be conjoined, and heard together.

And at next Calling of the said Actions before the Lord Ordinary, Parties appearing by their Counsel, it was insisted for the Appellant,

1st Reason of Suspension. First, That the Bond was not granted for borrowed Money, but for a random Sum, upon Assurances from the Respondent, that the Appellant should get his Estate at his Death: That the Respondent could not compel the Appellant to pay the Money; and thereby deprive him of the Chance of its belonging to him, at the Respondent’s Death; or at least that the Respondent could demand so much only as he should prove was really due to him at the time of executing the Bond.

2d Reason. That the Respondent being sole Manager of the Appellant’s Estate and Affairs, during his Minority, he was, as such, liable to account with the Appellant for his Conduct.

3d Reason. That though the Appellant had truly owed the Sum in the said Bond, at the Date thereof, the same would in great Part be now satisfied and paid by several Sums of Money and Effects of his, which had been received or taken by the Respondent, but whereof the Appellant, still continuing to repose the same Trust and Confidence in the Respondent, did not take care to preserve proper written Documents, nor could he now condescend on them all.

It was answered for the Respondent,

1st, That, as the Bond was given for a liquidated Sum, which the Appellant acknowledged he owed the Respondent for large Advances made to him at several times, it was the same as if given for Money then actually borrowed.

2d, As to the Respondent’s Management of the Appellant’s Affairs, during his Minority, the Appellant’s Mother had the chief Management of the Estate; and what small Intromissions the Respondent had, were for answering particular Demands; and Accompts were always settled, for such Intromissions, between the Appellant’s Mother, and the Respondent: That, from the Settlement between the Appellant, and his Guardians, 25th November 1719, it appeared, that the Appellant had himself received 2000 l. Scots, or 166 l. 13 s. 4 d. Sterling, of the Rents of his Estate in 1717. and the whole Rent in 1718. before he came of Age: And as to the Management after he came of Age, the Appellant himself produced a Factory, or Power of Attorney, granted by him to his Mother in the Year 1720. And if the Respondent did, with the Allowance of the Appellant’s Mother, receive any Part of the Rents from the Appellant’s Tenants, these, and every other Payment received out of the Appellant’s Estate, were fairly stated, and discounted to him, when the Bond in Question was granted: That the Reasons offered, why the Respondent should set forth the particular Items, which made the Consideration of the Bond, at this great Distance of time, 23 Years from the Date, were not sufficient, even in an Action of Reduction: The Consequence of laying open all Bonds, or other Securities of that Nature, at the Caprice of a Debtor, were very dangerous: And the Respondent absolutely denied, that the Bond was given without a previous Account, upon which there appeared to be more due to him, than the Sum for which it was given.

3dly, That, since the Date of the Bond in Question, the Respondent and Appellant had little or no Dealings together; and, except Three Payments in Part, viz. 1000 l. Scots, or 83 l. 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, in the Year 1741. 500 l. and 100 l. Sterling, in the Year 1745. the Respondent never received any Part of the Appellant’s Effects, or any other Payment, but only repeated Promises of Satisfaction by a Number of Letters from the Appellant.

22d July 1749. First Interlocutor. The Lord Ordinary having considered the foregoing Debate, “ his Lordship repelled the Reasons of Suspension and Reduction Afforded (as abolished) from the Reduction; and found the Letters orderly proceeded and decreed; but suspended extrajudicially of the Decree until the 10th of November next to come.”

Representative for the Appellant. The Appellant preferred a Representation to the Lord Ordinary, praying his Lordship to alter the said Interlocutor, and to find, that the Respondent ought to produce the Account of his Intromissions and Disbursements, or, at least, to give a Condescendence (or Particular) of the Cause of granting the Bond, confess or deny whether the Account drawn in the Presence of his Agent, and Mr. Francis Farquharson, was that from which he alleged the Balance arose, that was the Consideration of the Bond; and whether he the Respondent received the Sums due to the Appellant, where-with he is charged in said Account, or to allow Colonel Macdowgal, and Captain Wilkinson, to be enabled upon the aforesaid Facts, whereby the Necessity of the Condescendence might appear.

To this Representation the Respondent gave in Answer, setting forth, That, there being no Foundation by the Law of Scotland for suspending or reducing the Bond in Question, upon the Grounds insisted on by the Appellant, the Respondent therefore could consider the Suit in no other Light than as a designed Attack upon his Character: That the onerous Cause of the Bond in Question was sufficiently established by the Vouchers still extant, the Respondent had made up and exhibited an Account of very large Sums advanced by him to the Appellant, after his coming of Age to the time of granting the Bond; besides other large Sums, of which the Vouchers had perished in the Course of so many Years, but were partly instructed by indisputable Evidence: That the Fairness of this Transaction was now disputed by the Appellant, without any Evidence, and only upon his own Assertion, which was contradicted by repeated Testimonies under his own Hand, for a Course of Twenty Years, testifying the Respondent's faithful Discharge of his Duty, as Guardian to the Appellant: That the Bond in Question was granted by the Appellant, when 28 Years of Age, *major, sciens, & prudens*, which, if it stood in need of any extrinsick Evidence, had been acknowledged by the Appellant for more than 20 Years, both by partial Payments, and by Promises of Satisfaction often made and repeated in Writing, and at such a Distance of Time, when no Evidence was brought of any Fraud upon the Respondent's Part, he insisted, he could not now be compelled to prove, or even set forth, the onerous Cause of the Bond.

Upon hearing this Representation and Answer, " his Lordship adhered to his former Interlocutor of the 22d July last; and refused the Desire of the Representation."

The Appellant presented a Petition to the whole Lords, praying, that their Lordships would alter the Interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary above recited.

But their Lordships, after hearing and considering the same, did *unanimously*, without requiring any Answers from the Respondent, " adhere to the Lord Ordinary's Interlocutor, and refused the Desire of the Petition."

Thereafter the Appellant gave in a Representation to the Lord Ordinary, praying his Lordship would alter the said Interlocutor; and, the Lord Ordinary having considered the said Representation, " he ordained the same to be seen and answered, and, in the mean time, stopped extracting."

In Obedience to this last Interlocutor, Answers were put in for the Respondent; but, before any Judgment was given, the Appellant thought fit to bring his Appeal not only against the several Interlocutors of the 22d July and 9 December 1749. and 2d of January 1749-50. but also against that of the 12th January 1749-50. The Respondent humbly hopes, that the Three first Interlocutors Appealed from will be Affirmed, for the following, among other

R E A S O N S :

I. For that here is not the least Proof of Fraud, Circumvention, or unfair Dealing, on the Respondent's Part, either in obtaining the Bond in Question, or in any other of the Transactions between him and the Appellant; nay, the very Tenor of the Bond proves his intire Affection to his Nephew; for, however willing he was to secure himself, he would not leave the Appellant to the Mercy of those who might be his Successors: Himself he could trust, and therefore made the Money payable to him, or his Assigns: This Tenderness is inconsistent with an Intent unfairly to increase his own Estate at the Expence of his Nephew: If that had been intended, the Respondent would not have taken the Appellant out of the Power of his Heirs, as he must have been under much greater Difficulty to defend himself by any Surmise of Fraud, in obtaining this Bond after the Respondent's Death, than he could be while the Respondent continued alive.

The scrutinizing into every one of the Articles that make the Consideration of a Deed, or other Security, at such a great Distance of time as 23 Years, would be attended with infinite Inconvenience, and would open a Door to Perjury, and every other Kind of Fraud: When the Security is given, the Transaction is closed, the Vouchers of the several Items, after any considerable time, are laid by as useless, and lost: Under such Circumstances, a Plaintiff, seeking to set aside his own solemn Act, must make a very strong Case to intitle himself to any Relief against it.

The Bond in Question was entered into by the Appellant Eight Years after he came of Age, witnessed by Two Gentlemen of undoubted Honour, one his own Brother, and the other an intimate Friend: The Debt has been not only acknowledged by Payments in Part, but by numberless Letters under the Appellant's Hand ever since the Execution of the Bond, professing the highest Obligation to the Respondent, and the Justice of the Debt, which was never once questioned, until the Respondent, tired out with fruitless Promises of Payment, made a most reasonable Request of some further Security; then he is dragged, against his Will, into a Suit instituted by the Appellant his Nephew, litigating this Security, as obtained by gross Fraud and Imposition, and consequently affecting the Respondent's Character in the highest Degree; but the Appellant's own Testimony of the Respondent's Fairness, Indulgence, and Kindness, leaves him concerned only for the Return he meets with.

For these, and other Reasons, the Respondent humbly hopes, that the Three First Interlocutors Appealed from shall be Affirmed; and the Appeal Dismissed.

**A. HUME-CAMPBELL.
AL. FORRESTER.**

31^o. Martij 1750.

Did & Adjudged That the said Appeal be and is hereby Dismissed, and that the said Interlocutors therein complained of be and the same are hereby affirmed.

